

June 19, 2009 - Murtha: House Appropriations Committee Funds Local Sewage/Water and Agriculture Projects

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced that last night the House Appropriations Committee passed a \$32.3 billion fiscal year 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill and a \$22.9 billion fiscal year 2010 Agriculture Appropriations Bill that includes funding for local projects.

The Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill provides \$800,000 to the Municipal Authority of the City of Lower Burrell, Westmoreland County, for the Wildlife Lodge Road Sanitary Sewer Extension project. This project will install approximately 28,000 feet of sanitary sewer pipe to provide public wastewater disposal to 100 residents who currently do not have public sewage and instead have to deal with failing on-lot septic systems.

The Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill also provides \$393,000 to the Tri-County Joint Municipal Authority in Fredrickstown for improvements and upgrades to their existing water treatment facility. The existing treatment facility discharges raw sewage overflow into the Monongahela River, presenting public health and environmental concerns. This project includes construction of a filter backwash and clarifier blow down facility to stop overflow into the river, as well as installation of a 112,000 gallon equalization tank to settle out solids.

“It has been my priority to ensure that funding is made available for essential sewage and water infrastructure projects throughout the 12th Congressional District,” said Murtha. “This infrastructure is necessary for economic growth and to address both public health and environmental concerns.”

The Agriculture Appropriations Bill provides \$200,000 for Natural Biodiversity, Cambria County, to continue their efforts to restore stream-bank habitat and improve water quality in the Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin and adjacent areas. This award-winning project has restored over 100 acres of recreation areas and stream banks that had previously been overgrown with non-native, invasive plant species. This funding will allow them to

expand these efforts, provide technical assistance to private efforts to eradicate invasive species, and to explore the potential of creating a nursery for native species for these wetland areas.

The Agriculture Appropriations Bill also provides \$349,000 for the Penn State University Enhanced Dairy Farm Profitability Program. This program will study issues and problems that affect and reduce the profitability of our nation's dairy farmers and will provide technological solutions to improve profitability by addressing issues with energy costs, compliance with air and water quality regulations, poor herd reproductive performance, and herd health.

"These programs are important to our communities, and I'm pleased that the Appropriations Committee has included funding for them in next years spending bills," added Murtha.

The FY10 Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill makes key national investments in:

- Clean Water and Drinking Water
State Revolving Funds: \$3.9 billion to provide loans and subsidized assistance to more than 1470 communities by helping improve drinking water and wastewater systems.

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: \$475 million for an unprecedented effort by federal, state, and local agencies/groups to restore the Great Lakes.

• National

Park Service: \$2.7 billion, an increase of \$195 million above last year.

The FY10 Agriculture Appropriations Bill makes key national investments in:

• Rural Development: \$8.7 billion for housing, \$541 million for community facilities, \$1.2 billion for business programs, and \$9.3 billion for the rural utilities programs.

• Animal and Plant

Health: \$886 million to fund programs that protect American agriculture against animal and plant diseases.

The FY10

Interior and Environment Appropriations Bill totals \$32.3 billion, an increase of \$4.7 billion over last year and \$25 million below the President's budget request. The bill is expected to be

considered by the full House next week. The

FY10 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill totals \$22.9 billion in discretionary spending, an increase of \$2.3 billion over last year and \$650 million below the President's budget request. The bill is expected to be considered by the full House the second week of July.

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